

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

This ~~document invention~~ relates to a branching device (1,25) for at least one electric line. The branching device exhibits branching contacts and a housing (2) in which at least one electrically conducting wire terminal (11) is accommodated in a holder (10,26). The device is characterized ~~characterised~~ in that contact lips (44,46) with cutting edges (48) for cutting through the insulation (25) of the wires (50) of the electric line are provided on the wire terminals (11); in that the wire terminals (11) represent the branching contacts and in that a through-channel (47) for the uninterrupted passage of a wire (50) is provided in each wire terminal (11).